

Dana

A Voice from Bunker Hill

Bunker Hill 1840

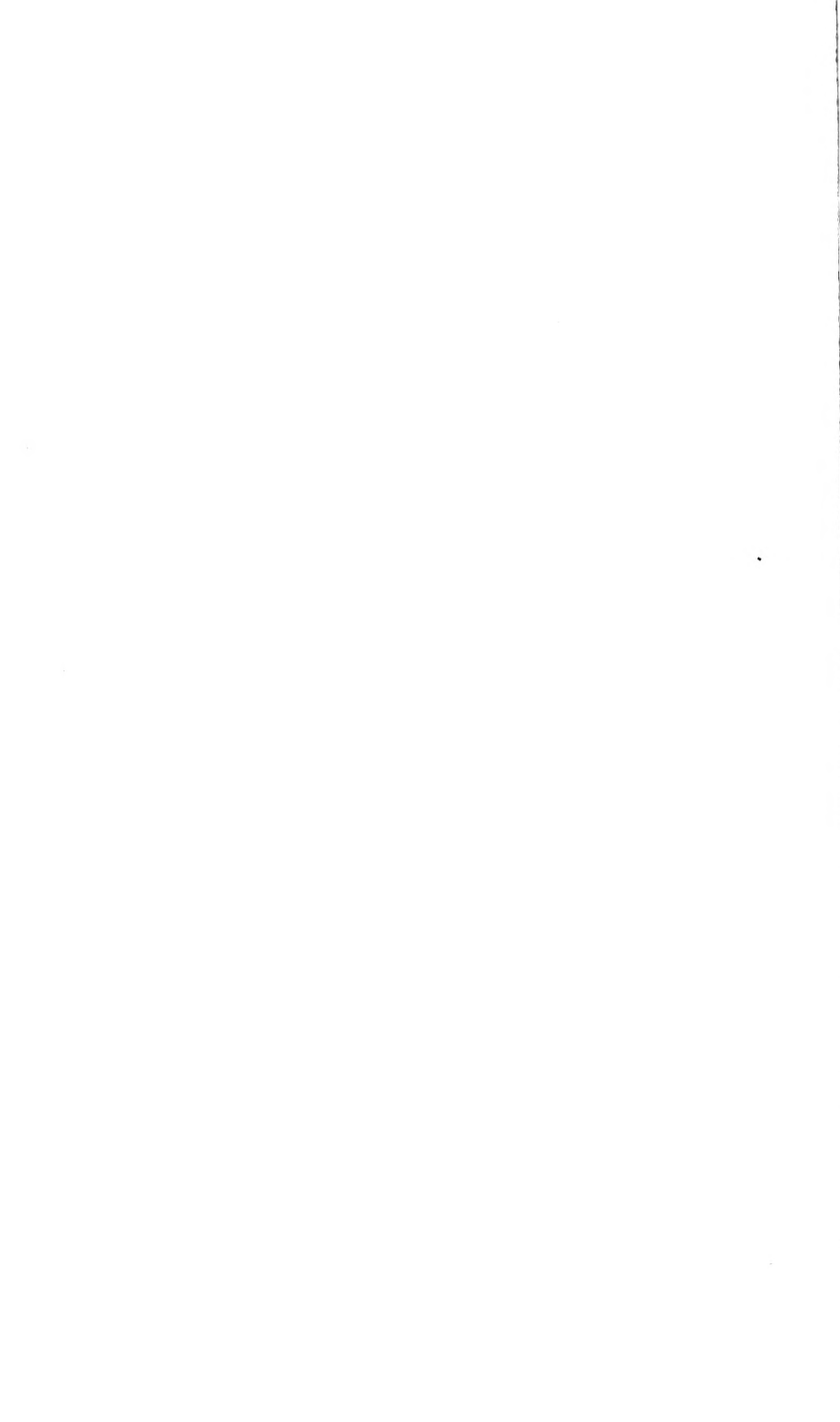
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Book 71





A VOICE FROM BUNKER-HILL,
AND THE
FATHERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR,

IN FAVOR OF

The Hero of North Ford,

BEING

A FEW CANDID REMARKS AND OBSERVATIONS ON
THE APPROACHING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION,
AND SUBJECTS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

Agreeably to the request of Whig and Democratic Friends.

By EDMUND P. DANA,
A Chip of the old Revolutionary Stock.

Second Edition.

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BUNKER HILL, JULY 1840

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A VOICE FROM BUNKER-HILL.

At the suggestion of many friends, in both the great political parties, and with a deep sense of the importance of the undertaking, I have concluded to attempt in a very feeble and crude manner, giving to the public the result of my experience and observation in reference to the great subject that at this time engrosses public attention.

I frankly confess my inability properly to pursue so high and important a subject, and probably shall be found deficient in many points, in placing my views and ideas on paper for public perusal ; nevertheless, not being entirely without experience in this matter, fortified by the strength of native freedom and induced by the spirit of American liberty, I enter upon the task with a firm resolution, in the spirit of truth and candor, divesting myself of all party bias, to present the case fairly before the people.

If I were a believer in dreams, visions or the visitations of the deceased to their friends, in this world, I might relate some experience in these things, if for no other purpose perhaps for the amusement of the reader, at the strange freaks and waywardness of the human mind. It matters not much in what I am about to attempt, that in the silent watches of the night, I had a very remarkable revelation on this subject, apparently a Bunker Hill itself. It appeared to me that near the monument, were a number of people unknown to me, dressed like the old continentallers, and then "in the twinkling of an eye," in white robes ; one of the number near me fell at my feet as if lifeless, but still looking on me with a heavenly smiling countenance. One said to me, this is *Thomas*,--meaning Thomas Parks, a volunteer in the battle of Bunker Hill. I supposed the person who spoke was my father ; and by their presence I felt compelled to write. Thomas Parks, my uncle, was in the battle of Bunker Hill, and continued through all the revolutionary war. He had ever a particular regard for me, and it appeared to me as if the venerated man, (long since deceased,) was with me on the sacred hill, in his old continental suit ; and in a feeling, friendly manner embraced me. His countenance was lit up with a divine ardor, apparently happy in the prospects of a great political change in the councils of the country, for which he had fought and suffered so much, and also apparently knowing my reflections and indecision about offering any

thing to the public, in a heavenly voice, said to me, "Edmund, my dearly beloved nephew, *write* ; and if you can publish any lines that will serve to convince the many of this foolish generation of the manifold errors into which they are now plunging, you will be rewarded for all trouble."

I may be thought credulous, at least, by many for mentioning this to me remarkable revelation ; and many will perhaps think it very idle to insert it here, and it may afford an opportunity for the scribbler of a pensioned press to throw the shafts of ridicule at my humble endeavors. But let them have their say,—as every dog will *bark*. If it was a dream, and only a dream, even as such it has been the source of much happiness to me, and is in some degree, the cause of my offering these crude remarks to the public. Besides, there is some reason for it as well as precedent, even in the Bible itself, for we read in Joel, 7th chapter, 20th verse, "and it shall come to pass that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh ; your sons and your daughters shall prophecy ; *your old men shall dream dreams*, and your young men shall see visions."

Actuated, as I have before said, by the foregoing motives, I offer to the public the result of my labors, with the hope that they may add something to strengthen the principles which led our venerated forefathers,—among whom I am proud to mention my uncle Thomas,—to the battle field, and which should ever guide Freemen, as upon their support of these principles depends the political safety of this country.

My fellow-countrymen, we want secured to us freedom of speech, freedom of the public press, protection of property and person, the security of our individual rights, and the general promotion of the public good. And to this end, we want a President of the People and not a President of a party,—one who reverences our political institutions and those patriots and statesmen who at immense sacrifice of blood and treasure acquired rights and privileges not enjoyed by any other nation on earth,—one who will not allow himself to be used as the tool of party, to thrust out of office and pay such of the few revolutionary veterans as have by wise men been thought capable of filling worthily the offices entrusted to them,—and this too, merely because they did not join in hurraing and electioneering for them, or because they were too old to play the demagogue, make stump speeches, or discharge the new service of public party lectors. We want not such a President as this, my friends,—one who fills the places of Power, Trust, and Honor, with "men of straw," mere party-tools, and in some instances, with worthless and condemned partizans. I humbly ask you, my fellow-citizens, if these and such as these, are the men we want to fill the public offices of

this great nation. Is the appointment of such men as these,—and the worst has not been told,—in accordance with the principles of our free government, principles which freemen ought to cherish and inculcate? And when they are made in violation of these principles and in derogation of the constitutional rights of other branches of the government, do they not show more of the spirit of despotism than of republicanism? With many of our former Presidents, particularly Washington, Jefferson, and Madison, the test for a candidate for office, was, is he honest, is he capable, is he faithful to the Constitution and the great interests of the whole country?

But it appears to me that the Executive, for years past, has entirely lost sight of the great principles of such patriots as Washington, Jefferson, and those who were in the heat and burthen of the great struggle for independence, and who knew for what and why they were contending against tyranny and despotism. And it is partly for this reason, to bring back the government to the true principles of its origin and institution, to restore energy, strength and durability to its broken, abused and shattered constitution, that I, for one, am in favor of elevating Gen. Harrison to the Presidency. Of him, it may truly be said, that he will follow, in these important respects, in “the footsteps of *his illustrious predecessors*.”

I will not condemn all those who are of the party in power, but such a course of conduct as our rulers have for some time past and are now pursuing, require the candid and serious attention of all reflecting people; and of them I would ask, can they lose the opportunity of displacing from power, the Executive which appoints, fosters and cherishes such men as the Swartwouts, Prices, or a host of other defaulters and gamblers with the public funds; can they forget the thousand and one promises of reform in the national expenses, which in lieu of diminishing they have increased from *thirteen millions* to *thirty-seven millions* per annum; can they support a party coming into power with a full treasury, a government free of debt, a country with millions of surplus money on hand, and with public officers, tried, faithful and true, and who have squandered the treasure of the nation, left the treasury empty, the country in debt, expenses continually increasing, the people suffering from hard times and low wages? These are questions for freemen to investigate and answer.

The country was prosperous and happy beyond all former example; and it is now reduced, degraded, oppressed with debt, and all this too, while our mechanics and laborers are out of employ, poorly paid and badly paid. I ask all true-hearted democrats if they can say these things are not so.

Can any one with half an eye, be so blind of that half as not to

see, and that too without exertion or effort, that in this I am far short of the wickedness and corruptness of the present administration of our government ; and my good friends among the democrats, ye who are candid, honest, and worthy, for there are many such, and such I call my friends, I ask you had these things ought to be so ; and if they had not, why do you not join heart and hand, and see if such a state of things cannot be changed ?

Is it not true, my good friends, that party-spirit and the striving after office, are the bane of this republic ; the rock on which we were forewarned we should split by our venerated and pious forefathers ? Read the Farewell Address of the great and good Washington, and there you will see the very evils we are now suffering in consequence of this lust of power and striving after office, so plainly pointed out that he who runs may read. If that address had been more of a text book with our public men, had been more adhered to ; if Washington's pious examples, the soundness of his virtuous principles ; his entire disregard of self, where his country was concerned ; the absence of party influence in all his public acts, and the total absence of any thing like selfishness in the administration of the government during his term of office, our country would not be in the wretched state it now is in. He always acted for the general good of the whole country. His doctrine was to do right in all things and trust to the people to support an administration conducted on such principles. Nobly did the people sustain an administration with such a man at its head. We at once rose to honor and respect with all nations, and through such influences obtained the admiration and best wishes of others, and the highest consideration among the nations of the civilized world.

That the spirit of our institutions, founded and supported by such principles, may be rescued and protected from the arts and intrigues of cunning rogues and selfish partizans ; that love of country may have the ascendancy over love of office ; that public good may take the place of private emolument ; virtue and uprightness in the place of intrigue and duplicity ; that honest, conscientious citizens may take the place of designing, worthless, immoral and dishonest partizans, I ask your candid and strongest aid.

Having been, for more than twenty years, acquainted with WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON, of Ohio, and having a knowledge of his valuable public services, both civil and military, I feel constrained to speak candidly and truly of the man whom I have every reason to respect as second to no man, in any great and noble attribute, that has lived since the days of Gen. Washington. There may be men of greater talents, of more costly and finished education ; but in every virtue and disposition of a *truly* great statesman,

a noble country-loving officer—an able General—a worthy citizen—the poor man's friend the rich man's counsellor—the devoted patriot and unostentatious legislator—no man compares with Harrison. I know he is reviled by the wicked and vile belonging to the party now in power—that he is called a profane swearer, an adulterer, and every other billingsgate slang is used respecting him that such men dare say and print—but what of that, a good fruit tree is known by the stones thrown against it. Our Lord and Saviour's sermon on the Mount reads, "Blessed are ye when men shall revile you and persecute you, and say all manner of evil things against you falsely" "and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward."

It was even so with that great, good and able man, Thomas Jefferson, when he was a candidate for President. I was one of his warmest supporters and rendered every exertion for his election by the suffrages of this great and free people—having been one of the Committee of Vigilance, in the City of New York, where I was then residing, and labouring day and night in support of his cause, I had the means of hearing and knowing the many vile and slanderous charges brought against him by the wicked and devil-daring minds in the ranks of his opponents—and they weighed with the public in those days, as the charges of like character will weigh against Gen. Harrison. I was then younger and more active than I am now, but I felt my cause to be the just and true one, that through the blessings of divine providence, justice would prevail, and slanders and vileness would fall to the ground and signally recoil on the head of the propagators—and although I have seen some years since then,

have had more experience and reflection, and a greater field for observation—and although I now use less personal exertions I feel confident that by the aid of divine goodness this great and increasing nation will shortly rise and put off its present chains of duplicity, weakness, imbecility, demagoguism and partizan spirit, and that it is rising as a mighty horse rushing to the battle, to put at the head of affairs the great, good, and noble William H. Harrison, who will be sure to surround himself with the wise and pure of the land.

I recommend to any one at this time to turn back to the pages of the history of our country, as far as Harrison is identified therewith, and with a careful use of such knowledge as he may gather, together with the testimony of many patriots now living, who were his compeers in our second war of Independence, and from such sources obtain a true exhibition of his character and services. These, and not the revilings and slanders of partizan journals, are the true channels for information.

My friends, there is not a drop of unpatriotic blood in Gen. Harrison's veins! He was born and educated a true whig, a firm sup-

porter of our institutions. His father, BENJAMIN HARRISON of Virginia, (who was also its Governor,) was one of the delegates from that State in Congress, when the truly patriotic man, JOHN HANCOCK of this State, was chosen President of the Continental Congress.—It was him who said, imbibing the spirit of our own patriotic citizen, “Now, my friends, we will show mother Britain how little we care for her.” This speech, in the “time that tried men’s souls,” showed the stuff he was made of, and also what sort of principles such a friend of freedom’s cause would be likely to inculcate in the minds of his children. His labors and self-devotion, his free expenditures of time and fortune, in support of the great cause which he made his own, left his children but little to inherit, save his principles and virtues and the examples and lessons of patriotism he so nobly taught them. William Henry, seeing his necessitous condition, prepared to study medicine, and make that his profession, but before finishing his education, the hostilities of the Indians in the North West, induced him to relinquish his studies, obey the calls of his country and dedicate himself to her defence,—a course strongly opposed by his relations and friends, and it was with their strong disapprobation that he commenced under Gen. Wayne, his course of public usefulness, which has redounded so much to his own honor and to the benefit and glory of his country.

From an ensign in the U. S. Artillery he rose to the post of Major General, and for his conduct in this high station, the history of those times abounds with honorable testimony to his high and eminent services. Besides these military honors, he has also had conferred upon him numerous civil appointments of honor and trust, requiring great skill, perseverance and judgment,—such as Governor of Indiana, superintendent of Indian affairs, Member of Congress, Governor of the North West Territory, and other stations, from his first entry into public life to the present time,—all going to show that he is a man who has always possessed the highest confidence of his countrymen. Indeed, as I have before said, during an acquaintance of twenty years, living in his immediate neighborhood, and since my leaving the Western country, until his nomination for the Presidency, I never heard a syllable against him;—not the slightest word against his high and honorable character was breathed until the late and unprincipled demagogues in power, thinking his name and principles were awaking the country to a sense of their gross mismanagement, have seized the weapon they are so familiar with, and are now dedicating their vile prints and viler tongues to all manner of slang, abuse and billingsgate, that such adepts in such means can contrive.

I, Edmund P. Dana the descendant of a worthy and devoted

band of Revolutionary Patriots take upon me to declare, that whosoever saith GEN. HARRISON is a Coward is a *Liar* ; whosoever saith he is a Blasphemer is a *Liar* ; whosoever saith he is an Adulterer is a *Liar* ; whosoever saith any other thing of him, that is dishonorable to a *Man*, a *Citizen*, a *Patriot*, a *Hero*, is a *LIAR*.—About the last piece of presumption in the villanous concoctions of their heathenish brains, the papers have lately asserted that he could “cast out Devils.” As the expression has been used, I would say that a man who can cast out devils must be powerful and good, well grounded in the faith of his fathers and imbued with a spirit of wisdom which has only been in the possession of inspired men. *They* only had power to cast out devils, cure diseases, heal the sick, restore the blind to sight and the deaf to hearing. Now, if Gen. Harrison is thus gifted, he above all others, and for this very reason, is the individual now most needed at the head of our government ; for when there, he will have full occasion for the exercise of these great powers, in casting out such devils as have entered into the rule of our affairs. His powerful arm may be used in restoring to health a sick nation, which has long suffered under the ministration of quacks, pretenders and unprincipled partizans ; He may restore sight and hearing to those who have been blinded to the aggressions and misbehavior of avaricious office-holders, and so deaf to the voice of their own interests and those of their country, as to suffer such misrule while the remedy is in their own hands. However, it can never be said, that he cast out devils by *Beelzebub*, the prince of devils, for if such was the case, our present administration would have been cast out long before now.

My friends, I have travelled much in this country, having visited most of these United States, particularly the Western States, and have had a great opportunity to see and know the operation of the political measures of the past and present administrations, and have been very particular in my observations of men and parties. I have also suffered much from the machinations and rogueries of those whom I shall designate as tories ; and here let me say, that I separate, in my mind, both whigs and democrats from those whom I call tories. Tories are the worst portion of society, in my view, and are guilty of many of the worst crimes of civilized life. My father and grand father, before me, were cheated and swindled by them. They defrauded my father of his estate, and the widow of her thirds. Of his property only twelve dollars were left to be divided among seven children. For my portion of this inheritance, I received two shirts. The name of one of these tories was J——, a distant relation of Judas Iscariot, *the first tory*, who betrayed his master for thirty pieces of silver. To escape from the tories of these times, my broth-

er and myself went first to the Genessee country and Canada, in order to acquire a livelihood. Even here also we found many members of that class, quite as bad as those we had left in old Massachusetts. In Canada, I was taken sick with the small pox, contracted while crossing Lake Ontario. Gov. Simco of Upper Canada, was informed of my disease, and told that I was the son of Geo.

Dana, a rebel of the Bay State, who assisted at the taking of Burgoyne. He ordered me to be carried out of the village nine miles from any inhabitants, and left at a place called Johnson's landing, below Fort Niagara, there to live or die, as a rebel might. Here I was found by some British soldiers, who were then in possession of Fort Niagara, one of whom proved to be a good Samaritan to me. The kindness of this man and his wife relieved my necessities and preserved my life, by the daily risk of their own. These people were *Irish*—a people for whom I have ever since felt high respect and consideration. Soon after, in the city of New York, I married a woman of this nation, a relative of Judge Robert Swanton of the Marine Court.

Some years after this, I met with severe losses from other tories, while keeping military clothing stores, in the third military district of New York, to which duty I was appointed by the commanding officers, more particularly by Col. Robert Bogardus, who ordered his carpenter to put up stores for me at the Narrows, Fort Diamond, opposite Staten Island, and at Fort Green, Long Island. I had the assurance of the officers on these stations, viz. Col. Bogardus, Capt. Sherman, Capt. Radcliff of the 41st. Captain Ingalls, Capt. Crane, Capt. Seymour, Capt Borden, of the 32d, Col. Denison of the 27th, and many others, that government would amply reward all my exertions, and they have since aided me in my efforts to obtain from Congress the amount of my claim.

At these places, part of my losses were occasioned by desertions of tories, by minors who enlisted without consent of their parents, and by the breaking open of my stores at the Narrows, Fort Green, and New York. Supplies to these deserters and others, were delivered upon the orders of the officers, as they were not to be had at all times, in the Commissaries Department. Twice I have petitioned to Congress for compensation; and at the last time in 1817 the Committee on Claims found honestly due to me upwards of four thousand dollars, and so reported to Congress. In favor of my claim, I have many recommendations as to my usefulness and faithfulness in the discharge of my duty, and although much of my documentary evidence was destroyed by a great fire at Cincinnati, a few years since, I yet live in hope that a future administration of our government will do me justice.

I have not made the reader acquainted with these facts out of any sinister motives, but just to show who it is that addresses them, and that I have had my attention so long and so much directed to public affairs that I have had the opportunity of judging of matters and things connected with the public good of our country.

As I have already said, when I see the spirit of party prevailing over the spirit of truth and justice, my heart rises within me, and from my residence at Washington in '32, where I have seen many disgraceful transactions, I feel the more constrained to say something at this time, in the hope that others may be able to realize the true situation of the cause of freedom and liberty in this beautiful land which the all-wise Providence has so blessed for us.

Among those scenes in our history at which I look with great pain, are the occurrences which have taken place, within a few years, at the seat of our national government and on the floor of Congress, to some of which I have been an eye-witness. It is enough to grieve the heart of every true lover of his country, more particularly one who has suffered in freedom's cause, to think and know that in our national halls, the free representatives of a free people have been threatened with assassination and death, for daring to speak their sentiments ; that on those floors which ought to be sacred as the pulpit from the hand of violence, members have been deliberately attacked and knocked down ; that on the steps of the capitol they have been shot at ; in the streets, beaten and bruised, and other enormities fresh in the recollection of all who pay the least attention to public proceedings. It has got to be serious times, my friends, when no law can rule but club-law ; when our public affairs are settled by the bludgeon and the pistol ; and when such conduct as this is tolerated, we ought, we must look for the cause and the remedy.

Can we forbear recurring to the remarkable prophecy of Benton, of Missouri, which foretold exactly such a state of things, if Gen. Jackson should ever be the President of the country. If all these things do not result from the measures of the present administration, they are perpetuated by its determination "to follow in the footsteps of its illustrious predecessor." This administration has at its head the very individual who has been the instrument of illustrating one of the governing principles of the party most signally, for he is the same person whom Gen. Jackson usurped into the office of Minister to England and then called upon the Senate of the United States to sanction the disgraceful proceeding ; but fortunately the Senate was then composed of men of principle, who rebuked the attempt at superceding their authority, and were obliged to say, that our flag which had floated in all quarters of the world, had been dishonored,

and that no minion of power should show his triumphs in foreign lands.

With such a man at its head, what has the country to expect but the continuance of the policy in which he was the cause of such a national disgrace, and which he is bound, hand and foot, soul and body, to adhere to. And my countrymen, is it not time that we should be relieved from such rulers? Had the spread eagle of freedom ought to lower his pinions to the spirit of party? And had not the principles and sentiments, the views and measures of such men as Washington and Jefferson—those who led to honor, prosperity, happiness and unbounded success—ought to be returned to us. If you think so, just be at the trouble of looking at the character of the man who is now nominated to take the head of affairs in opposition to the present misjudging, misguided incumbent.

Gen. Harrison learned his precepts and his principles from those men, who have done so much for the honor and glory of this great country,—and that is the reason why, in every action of his life, he has so signally received the countenance and support of all the good and great men of his times. His adherence to the principles of right and national freedom secured to him the confidence of MADISON, the respect of MONROE and the esteem of ADAMS, and the approval of all the pure and patriotic of our land. No man, since the days of Washington, has come before the American people with such high and unequalled claims upon their suffrages.—a man whose career has always been the theme of praise and whose private virtues have made him more personal friends than any other man now living. Possessing every quality that ennobles the mind and perfects the heart, he has passed sixty years of his life an honor to his country and an example to the whole land.

And now that such a man has stepped out to show that by his election our country is not entirely lost to a sense of that true and noble spirit of freedom and uprightness which has been transmitted to us, I have every confidence to believe that the country is awakening from the thralldom and will seize such an occasion to show forth its appreciation of the high and noble qualities of the man who has been an honor to every station in which he has been placed.

At the age of eighteen he commenced his public services as an ensign in the hazardous and toilsome campaign under Gen. Wayne, against the Indians; and at that time the boldness and vigor of his character bore him triumphantly on and won for him the approbation of his superiors. He was soon promoted to the rank of first LIEUTENANT, and then to a CAPTAINCY and placed in command of an important frontier Fort. On the cessation of hostilities, seeing that his services could be dispensed with, he resigned this command

and was immediately appointed *SECRETARY of the North-western Territory*, where he so assimilated himself to the characters and habits of the brave and hardy people with whom he associated, and so discharged his civil duties as to receive the respect and esteem of all. When he was twenty-six years of age he was chosen from the Territory as a *DELEGATE* to Congress, where he distinguished himself by proposing and carrying through those measures regulating the sales of public lands, that have operated with such beneficial influences for the pioneers of the West—and to him also is attributable the method for equalizing the location of military lands, and other measures and public acts in that capacity which added immeasurably to the confidence of the growing West, and increasing the respect of all impartial men.

After the North Western Territory was divided and the Territory of Indiana was formed, the wishes of all acquainted with his devotion to the interests of the West and welfare of the Union, designated Harrison as the *GOVERNOR*, and he was first appointed by President Adams, and afterwards by his successor, Jefferson, to an office in which reposed as much responsibility as any one, under our Government. The Territory then embraced an extent of country out of which several states are now formed, and without any state legislature, the administration of government devolved upon Gen. Harrison with the most extensive powers. Such was the satisfactory manner in which he conducted the Government, being in fact for the time the law-giver of the West, establishing their civil and criminal codes, appointing Judges, Magistrates and all the officers of Law.

He was also the commander of the Militia—the Surveyor of districts and townships—in fact the full representative of the United States in a vast variety of administrative functions—all of which as I have before said, he discharged with so much approbation, particularly of the administration at which Jefferson was then at the head, that he further added to his duties and great powers—that of General and sole *COMMISSIONER* to treat with the Indian tribes of the North West, on the subject of their boundaries and lands. In this last capacity he concluded thirteen important treaties with different tribes and secured on the most advantageous terms over sixty millions of acres of the most valuable section of the country. At the same time he preserved peace with the Indians and counteracted the influence of tories and foreigners to excite and embroil them against the scattered settlements of our countrymen on their borders. His was the only hands through which passed the large sums of money then disbursed on the Frontier. To him alone was entrusted the sole power of conferring grants of land to the numerous claimants. The manner in which he discharged these trusts shew

his superior integrity and unspotted purity, as not the least cause of reproach, the least shadow of suspicion, the least breath of defamation has been cast upon him. He was by all admitted to be so scrupulously upright, so honorable, so just and so true as to be beyond the reach of suspicion. The whole west were at that time so unanimous in repeated applications for his continuance in office among them, that his commissions were renewed, at successive periods, by Jefferson and Madison;—and to show the people still further his continued exertions for the welfare of his beloved country, I beg here to direct your attention again to the histories of those times, which are full of his noble and disinterested public actions, showing that he has always been considered as the Washington of the West, and the Father of the North Western Territory.

History will show how quickly he responded to the call of his country to arms, and on the first breaking out of hostilities he with the small force that could be raised on the moment, as it were, rushed into the field of battle—and also show how justly has been awarded to him the proud title of **HERO OF TIPPECANOE**. The victory gained in that battle, was at that time considered vast in its importance—indeed the battle-field, Tippecanoe, where Harrison and the militia of Indiana and the volunteers of Kentucky, won imperishable honors has been considered as classic ground in the memory of all patriotic hearts and is now regarded as one of the monuments of the West. History also records another instance of the enthusiasm of the western country in his favor, which was in his appointment as **MAJOR GENERAL** of the Kentucky militia, and subsequently the appointment to the **COMMAND** of the whole North-western army which was conferred upon him by the President. At that time it was said that his men would suffer more and fight better under him than under any General in America. This extensive Command—more so than was before entrusted to any General since the Revolution—was placed in his hands by President Madison, whom long and intimate knowledge of him furnished the best possible means of judging of his trustworthiness and capability—and history furnishes a mass of proof to show the wisdom of this appointment. The toils and hardships he endured; his deportment to his officers and troops; his method of securing their obedience,—all are matters of history and ought to be in the minds and memory of all. The measures connected with his command during that period are so fully recorded in the histories of the times and other publications respecting his own life that I must refer my friends to them in order to appreciate the full measure of gratitude due the **HERO OF THE WEST**, who was longer in service than any other general officer of the late war and

was perhaps oftener in action than any of them and *never sustained a defeat.*

I hope, my friends, that you will all perceive that I have every reason for enforcing upon your attention the merits of this truly great man. He is disinterested and of the utmost integrity in pecuniary affairs,—hospitable by habit and by nature ; charitable and generous in the extreme ; always just, moderate, and conciliatory, though firm and considerate in his disposition ; cheerful and affable in his intercourse ; warm in his attachments, yet never violent and vindictive in his enmities,—it is the rare union of such qualities that has swayed all about him and secured him more personal friends perhaps than any man now living. His politics, as I have before said, are not those of party but the good of the whole union is his aim, in exemplification of which he is only to be chosen as Chief Magistrate to show the world the blessings of an administration of the man who has not his equal in the country.

And now I ask every one to come to the question, divested of every thing relating to party—come with the spirit of impartiality and candor to the examination of the momentous subject now craving your attention. I am willing to accord to Martin Van Buren all that can be justified to his favor and to have him judged by the same standard as the People's candidate. But I ask you to receive with caution and examine with carefulness the praises of any man who has said of General Jackson, that he was Washington's superior, and of any party that would inculcate the idea that I have heard advanced by men of the party now in rule—"Jackson can do no wrong, let him kill all that oppose him for they are opposing right and ought to die." These are sentiments, my friends, hardly tolerated in the most despotic nation, yet they are but a sample of such as have been inculcated by those who wish to build party power to despotic rule and govern this once happy and free people with the rod of terror. If you doubt it, you have but to look around you for evidences as strong as the most distrustful can ask. Our Commerce ruined ; our Manufactories idle ; our Mechanics unemployed ; Produce cheapened ; property decaying and families starving,—also to show the beauties of experiments in our government, such as our wisest forefathers never dreamed of and such as the country never knew ;—experiments which have so far built up party at the expense of the people,—a party that is desirous of a standing army, that bane of all countries—a party this moment using their power in Congress to get the whole control of the public treasury, entirely from the hands of the people—a party whose officers are bound to spend a moiety of their time and salaries in electioneering—a party under whose administration there has been more public defaulters than from the independence of the country to the present time—a party which has

squandered more public money and lost more by public defaulters, than the whole expenses of former administrations. They came into power with forty millions of dollars surplus money in the treasury, all of which is gone and now we are in debt more than twenty-five millions of dollars. They have received millions of dollars for the public lands, and yet are asking to be continued in office, that they may career still longer the course of perdition—perdition to our liberties, our happiness, our honor, our respectability, to every thing desirable to a freeman and well wisher to our country. I could wish, my friends, that I were possessed with talents corresponding to my inclinations, to show in all its horrors the precipice to which our happy institutions are so fast hastening; that I could picture in their proper colors the miseries that are threatening us; that I could convince all the misguided and misinformed of our citizens of the subterfuges, the deep and dark schemes that the evil and designing are using to make slaves of us. Nothing is so frequent as the cry of tory against those who wish a change and relief from the present public rulers, by those who are the veriest tories in the world and who adopt the principles, measures and conduct of the tories of the revolution. The whigs of those days were proud of their principles—they were the true lovers of their country—the true democrats, maintaining the principles of Washington, Jefferson, Harrison and the prominent patriots of the country, from its first settlement to this day. A Tory on the contrary, has always been designated as the worst being on the face of the earth, guilty of all sorts of crimes, as well as traitors to the country; some have owned themselves in the pay of Great Britain, enemies to whigs and freemen. I have myself suffered from them in such a manner as always to make me know and remember the difference between a tory and a true-hearted American—once they doomed me to a lingering death—and I think I have seen enough of them to be able to tell what a tory is. And I am sorry to be obliged to say that among those now in power over us, are some exactly such tories as were despised and condemned in the days of our fathers. Their ways are such that I have not the least hesitation in applying the name to them, and fixing it upon those who get office only to cheat the public, rob the treasury and reward the partizans, however worthless their character. I say as I have heard others say, call me any thing but a tory. I wish you all to look at the conduct of those who have brought our country to this distressed state, and say whether they have not raised the cry of tories against the true democrats and whigs who wish their power to cease, so that their crimes might be confounded with the noise and uproar they wish to create.

But my fellow-citizens will not be deceived or lulled to sleep.—Awake to the preservation of your true integrity, look carefully at

the morning of the times, study with thought and deep reflection your interests as Americans, your rights as citizens and your claims as just men and true. Show that you are not so blinded by partisan cry, political humbug, but that your patriotic indignation may be aroused to convince your oppressors that the way of the transgressor is hard. I care not by what name you call yourselves—whigs, democrats, republicans, locofocos any thing you choose, only show yourselves Americans,—the descendants of those whom we are proud to remember as fathers and patriots. Only assert your rights as freemen and there will be an end to all the criminality of those who now ride the high horse of misrule in our blessed union. I can well remember as it were but yesterday, the time that my Father packed his knapsack, tied on his blanket, shouldered his musket, girted on his arms, took each one of his children by the hand and bid us all farewell, with the exclamation that he was willingly offering his services, and if Providence so ordered, his life, in support of the most holy cause of his country. He called upon us to remember for what and why he went to battle and never to lose sight of the cause of freedom for which he was offering himself a military sufferer. His admonitions have never been absent from me, and with them full in my mind, I cannot abstain from throwing before the public in this crude manner, my thoughts and my reasons for rallying under the standard of that superior man, that noble citizen, the hero and statesman, WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON. And I have such a presentiment of the success of free principles and uprightness over the rule of party-spirit and the sway of toryism, that I am firmly convinced that this appeal to the candor of all enquirers after truth and right and justice will be received in the spirit in which it is written, and that the cause to which I have both reason and inclination for attaching myself, will raise our country from its present degradation to prosperity and happiness.

I wish it to be understood that I do not call good democrats tories, as many do. I class them among the whigs, for I hope they are all aiming for the good of the country—if they are not, I call them tories. Some may be led away by interest, relationship, sinister motives or through ignorance of the truth. Many refuse to read, excepting on one side, and are not open to the conviction of truth. But I trust and hope you will read both sides with candor and without prejudice, and finally come in to the aid of the good old Hero of North Bend. As things have gone on so badly under the present administration, we can at least try another.—Gen. Harrison will not be a candidate for more than four years, and he cannot do much harm and will most likely do much good in that single term.

In what I have written, I have given a short outline of some part of my personal history,—this I have deemed necessary to a true understanding of the tory character and principles, and to show the manner in which

I have been treated by them. I might speak further of myself, if it were proper to do so, and might also refer to many friends in various parts of the country, of both political parties, for confirmation of my views and opinions and for reference.

It is my wish to have all friends of the country, by whatever name called, united in one party, and as the wind appears to be fair, let us hoist our sails, under the spread eagle of America, and make a short and quick trip from Bunker-Hill to North Bend, where the venerable hero and patriot lives. Refreshed with his farmer's fare, crackers and cheese, beef, bread and hard cider, we may sail the country round; cheering the people, encouraging their hopes, exalting their patriotism, and leading them on under a chief "who never sustained a defeat," until we have fairly placed him in the Presidency of the nation.

Freemen of America! I have fulfilled to me an irksome but I believe a sacred duty, and I trust you will duly appreciate the motives that prompted me in the undertaking. I wish to see these United States free, happy and prosperous; the American Eagle, bearing her sway and spreading her wings over us as one united happy people. May our institutions be preserved in all the vigor and energy of their original formation, and transmitted down to posterity as the richest legacy a sire can bequeath to a son—and may our children and their posterity continue to leave their offspring for generations yet to come, as free and happy as our fathers left us; that they may set "under their own vine and fig-tree" and enjoy the blessings of Providence under a Constitution, governed by good laws is the most fervent wish of my heart. And may these United States be based upon foundations of eternal liberty and virtue, never to be shaken by designing partizans, but remain firm as the rock of ages—a monument of Freedom to all mankind.

E. P. DANA.

Bunker-Hill,
Charlestown, July 4, 1840.
[First edition.]

APPENDIX.

From Hon. Daniel Webster.

WASHINGTON, June 11th, 1840.

DEAR SIR—Your letter of the first of this month was duly received, and if I were not kept at my post by the pendency of particular public measures of great importance, I would cheerfully make a journey to New-Hampshire, for the sake of meeting the Whigs of my native State, assembled in Convention. But it is impossible for me to leave my seat at this time, consistently with duty. Although I cannot be with you, my dear sir, you will have my earnest and sincere fellow feeling, and good wishes.

The moment is propitious, and I hope it will be well improved, for an appeal to the good sense and patriotism of the people of our State. They have the same interests as their neighbors, and the same necessity for good laws and wise administration. And the causes which have created such an agitation all over the country, cannot but have awakened *their* attention also. A Revolution is in progress, which sooner or later must and will reach *them*, and the sooner the better. I believe that the election in November will show the greatest change of public opinion, ever manifested in the United States. Nothing is likely to check the current of that opinion, now running so strongly and swelling so fast: because nothing will be done here, to remove the evils under which the country suffers, which have set it in motion. The first step taken by this administration was a decided and fatal one. The President, in his first message to Congress, in September, 1837, announced his policy to be, to provide a medium for the payment of taxes and debts to Government, but to take no measures for the maintenance of a sound currency among the People. His policy was wholly new. Down to the very last hour of his administration, General Jackson acknowledged it to be the solemn duty of the General Government, to take care of the currency of the country, and to maintain it in a sound and convenient state for the whole people. He insisted that he had fully performed that duty, and that he had furnished to the country a good system. These things were among the very last of his official acts and official sayings. But soon after his own hand was withdrawn from it, his system failed, totally failed. The currency of the country was thrown into confusion; and then it was, that the successor of General Jackson renounced,

altogether, what *he* had thought a solemn duty of the Government, and avowed the strange policy of providing for Government, and of letting the People provide for themselves. I heard this declaration with astonishment; and what I then thought of it, and what I thought it would then lead to, may be seen by reference to my remarks made on the subject at that session. I have called this a strange policy. It was a rash dereliction of duty, a sort of headstrong refusal to execute plain constitutional obligations. It was a bold throwing off of duty, from consciousness of the difficulty of discharging it, without recanting former opinions. The administration cannot retrace this extraordinary, this fatal step; and its consequences on the country are not consequences for a month only, or for a year. They will last, and must last, as long as the policy itself is persisted in. It is for these reasons that I believe that nothing but a change of administration, a change of men, will restore to the country its accustomed prosperity. The men at present in power cannot change its measures; and those measures cannot bring us relief.

The friends of the administration expect the public excitement to pass away; but this is vain hope. They look for relaxation of efforts among their opponents, and reaction among the people. But what is to allay the existing excitement, or what is to cause reaction? Is the currency of the country in the course of being bettered? Are the Southern and Western banks about to resume specie payments? Depend upon it, there will never be continued and regular specie payments, by all the banks, through all the States, until the Government takes the care of the currency into its own hand. Are prices rising? Is produce higher? Is exchange more favorable? Are the farmers, the graziers, and the woolgrowers getting rich again? Do the hat makers, shoe makers, carriage makers, the furniture makers, and other mechanics of New England, begin to collect their Southern and Western debts? Do they begin to get in their old dues, and to receive fresh orders? Unfortunately, in all these respects the country is in just as bad a condition as it has been. And the first thing to change this condition, for the better, will be a general belief, that there is to be a change of administration, and nothing else, for a change of measures. They expect relief from no other quarter. All that keeps things now, from growing still worse, is the hope that a change of administration is approaching. If the country were to hear this day of the death of Gen. Harrison, or of any other event greatly increasing the probability that the present course of measures would be continued for another four years, the instantaneous effect would be, a still farther depression of business, farther fall in prices, and farther discouragement to labor. There is no confidence among men

business in the country. This is what is needed. Men wish to see a ground for hope of better times. Gen. Harrison's election will bring this confidence, and this hope of better times. It will inspire disheartened industry with new life, and light up a smile of cheerfulness on the desponding face of labor. And his election is certain, in my opinion, if an all wise Providence shall spare his life. The excitement, therefore, which now moves the great mass of the People of the country, will not cease, since the cause is permanent ; nor will reaction take place among the people, nor will there, I trust, be any relaxation, not the least, of efforts of the friends of reform. When a new administration shall come into power, and a new Congress, and when both shall manifest a hearty disposition to abandon schemes, projects and senseless experiments, and to conduct the Government on well approved principles of public policy, then, and not till then, will excitement cease or efforts be relaxed. Till then, the movement is steady, onward, with unceasing speed and force.

Although I do not doubt that Gen. Harrison will be elected, by a very large majority, it would be peculiarly gratifying to me, I confess, if I might indulge the hope, that NEW HAMPSHIRE would be found among his supporters ; that not ashamed of the name in which their fathers gloried, her citizens would join the great body of their fellow countrymen, now in full and successful march towards the accomplishment of objects of the highest importance to the general prosperity. Would that I could see the flag of my native State waiving in its proper place, at the head of this long National procession ! Would that I could hear her name called first, and hear her answer promptly to the call ! as it was her proud preeminence in olden times, to be called first on the roll of the States, and her answers were ever affirmative and prompt for whatever of sacrifice or of effort the common cause required. But however this may be, and whether I may enjoy the good fortune or not, I have great pleasure in seeing that, at least, the Whigs of my native State are coming into line with alacrity and spirit. Whether successful or unsuccessful at home, they will be acknowledged by their fellow countrymen as patriotic and well deserving. But who shall say that they will be unsuccessful ? No doubt there are difficulties and obstacles before them. There is ignorance to be enlightened in some cases, and prejudices to be overcome in many more. But their brethren of the State are honest, well meaning, and cannot desire bad government. They are enchained by the spirit of party, and the spirit of party, it is true, is strong ; but, it is not always unconquerable. Sometimes it yields to candid conviction, sometimes to woful experience, sometimes to new light and better knowledge. Let us hope that our native State, not accustomed, of old times, to be

found lagging in the cause of our country, will now see the path of patriotism and duty, broad and plain before her, and be ready to follow it. For my part, I shall continue to love her white topped hills, her clear running streams, her beautiful lakes and her deep shady forests, as long as I live, whatever part she may act in public affairs. I find myself arrived at a period of life when these scenes begin to return, bringing with them the fresh remembrance of juvenile years. I shall not renounce my parent, nor be ashamed of her, however long she may continue in what I think political errors. Still, I cannot deny that I have great pleasure in the hope, that an hour is coming, when I may be united in sentiment with the majority of her people, on the great questions which affect the interest of our common country. She may be slow to give up particular partialities, or particular opinions; but give them up she must, and give them up she will: and she will be as slow to give them back again.

The last time I ever saw Gen. Stark, he was at a public house at Goffstown. Towards the close of the evening, it was proposed that the company should go home. He said, "Not yet. It is my fashion, when I come late, to make it up by staying." Perhaps this may be the fashion of the State. I trust it is. Allow me, therefore to conclude this letter by expressing the hope, that if New Hampshire come rather late into the Log Cabin, she will stay when she does come.

I am, dear sir,

With much personal regard,

Your friend and ob't serv't.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

A SOLDIER'S TESTIMONY.

The admiration which one brave man and good soldier cannot help feeling for another, is well displayed in the following correspondence, to which we invite the attention of our readers:

My dear General:

I address you with the frankness, which one old friend may use toward another. My object is to learn what you think of the recent attacks on the military character of Gen. Harrison. — I believe you were in the Army in the West, in the campaign of Tippecanoe; although I do not remember that you served with him after the declaration of war against England—but as a military man, forming your judgment impartially, and when the facts were recent, your opinion would be of great value. If there be any blot on his military fame, it ought to be known; if there be not, you will feel that an old soldier ought not to be unjustly and rudely attacked.

Gen. Harrison is before the country for the Presidency. I do not know that we shall elect him, but I can say, in your own language, my dear General, that 'we'll try.'

Yours with unceasing regard.

DANIEL WEBSTER.

Gen. JAMES MILLER.

SALEM, June 30, 1840.

My dear Sir:

I have the honor to have received your letter of yesterday, requesting me to state what I think of the recent attacks on the military character of Gen. Harrison. In answer I can truly say, that I have noticed with deep regret attacks, not only on his well earned military fame, but also upon his private character. My first acquaintance with Gen. Harrison was in the year 1811. I was on duty in the 4th Regiment of Infantry, then commanded by Col. John P. Boyd—afterwards Gen. Boyd—under orders to proceed to Vincennes, and there report to Gov. Harrison. We did so. We remained at Vincennes some days, and united ourselves with the Volunteers assembled there, devoting our limited time to purposes of organization and drill. We then took up the line of march for the Indian country, and proceeded by slow and cautious marches, until we had reached about seventy miles up the Wabash toward Tippecanoe; where we halted and threw up a stockade work, which we called Fort Harrison. Here I remained until the Army returned from Tippecanoe, after the battle.

Although I was not in the battle, still I took great interest in it; had much conversation with all the officers on their return; and made every enquiry I could think of respecting their movements and encampments, the attack and defence, and the operations of the battle throughout;—and I made up my mind, unhesitatingly, that the campaign had been conducted with great bravery, skill and judgment, and that nothing was left undone, that could be done, consistently with the General's express orders from the War Department, which I saw and read. Nor have I ever known or heard of any act of his, which has in the least degree, altered the opinion I then formed of him. I will add that if I ever had any military skill, I am more indebted for it to Gen. Harrison, than to any other man. Soon after the battle, I wrote a letter to Gen. Benjamin Pierce, late Governor of New Hampshire—my military father, as I call him—giving a detailed account of the campaign of Tippecanoe,—That letter was preserved by Gen. P. and might now probably be found among his papers. If it is in existence, it will show what were my opinions at that time, as would also several other letters then written by me to various friends. In

those days I never heard that Gen. Harrison was a coward, or wore petticoats.

To conclude, I freely express my opinion, after following him through all his civil and military career, after living with him in his family more than six months, that Gen. William Henry Harrison is as free from stain or blemish, as it falls to the lot of man to be.

I am, dear Sir,

Your old Friend,

JAMES MILLER.

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER.

GENERAL HARRISON.

WILLIAM H. HARRISON was born in Virginia on the 9th of February 1773.

In 1791, when nineteen years of age, he was appointed by Washington an Ensign in our infant army.

In 1792, he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant, and in 1793 joined the legion under Gen. Wayne, and in a few days thereafter, was selected by him as one of his Aids.

On the 4th of August, 1794, he distinguished himself in the battle of the Miami and elicited the most flattering written approbation of Gen. Wayne.

In 1795 he was made a Captain, and was placed in command of Fort Washington.

In 1797, he was appointed by President Adams Secretary of the North Western Territory, and ex officio Lieutenant Governor.

In 1798, he was chosen a delegate to Congress.

In 1801 he was appointed Governor of Indiana, and in the same year President Jefferson appointed him sole Commissioner for treating with the Indians.

In 1806, he was re-appointed Governor of Indiana by Madison.

On the 7th of November, 1811, he gained the great victory of Tippecanoe!

On the 11th September, 1812, he was appointed by Madison Commander-in-Chief of the North Western Army.

On the 1st May, 1813, the Siege of Fort Meigs commenced—lasted five days and was terminated by the brilliant and successful sortie of Gen. Harrison.

On the 31st July, the battle of Fort Stephenson occurred.

On the 5th of October, 1813, he gained the splendid victory of the Thames over the British and Indians under Proctor.

In 1814 he was appointed by Madison one of the Commissioners to treat with the Indians, and in the same year with his colleagues, Governor Shelby and General Cass, concluded the celebrated treaty of Greenville.

In 1815, he was again appointed such Commissioner, with Gen. McArthur and Mr. Graham, and negotiated a treaty at Detroit.

In 1816, he was elected a member of Congress. In January, 1818, he introduced a resolution in honor of Kosciusko, and supported it in one of the most feeling classical and eloquent speeches ever delivered in the House of Representatives.

In 1819, he was elected a member of the Ohio Senate.

In 1824, he was elected Senator in Congress, and was appointed, in 1825, Chairman of the Military Committee, in place of Gen. Jackson who had resigned.

In 1827, he was appointed Minister to Columbia and in 1829 wrote his immortal letter to Bolivar, the deliverer of South America.

Of him, Col. Johnson (Vice President) thus spoke in the House of Representatives, whilst a member of that body.

"Of the Career of General Harrison I need not speak—the history of the west is his history. And for forty years he has been identified with its interests, its perils and its hopes. Universally beloved in the walks of peace, and distinguished by his ability in the councils of his country, he has been yet more illustriously distinguished in the field. During the late war he was longer in actual service than any other general officer; he was, perhaps, oftener in action than any one of them, and *never sustained a defeat.*"

Such is the man, who still enjoying his untarnished fame and glory, and standing on a proud and lofty eminence, where neither malice nor envy can assail him, is now summoned by his grateful countrymen to leave the quiet walks of private life to guide the councils of the nation, "and deliver the country from the dangers which encompass it." *And he will be her deliverer.*

NOTE.

The author embraces this opportunity to give notice to the subscribers for his Geography and Map of North and South America, that owing to circumstances beyond his control, the work has been delayed to the present time, and will probably be relinquished, unless he should receive assistance in the North.

He will dispose of the copy-right of his published Geography of the Western country, and also of the manuscripts of his proposed new work, (embracing his travels in the U. S. for the last forty years,) on favorable terms.

E. P. DANA.

CHARLESTOWN, July 4, 1840.

*Expenses of the Government from Gen.
Washington's administration to that
of Mr. Van Buren, inclusive.*

Gen. Washington's 8 years	\$15,892,193	55
Average for each year	1,986,524	82
Mr. John Adams 4 years	21,459,351	19
Average for each year	5,362,587	79
Mr. Jefferson's 8 years	41,390,788	68
Average for each year	5,162,589	58
Mr. Madison's 8 years	141,684,938	86
Average for each year	18,085,617	48
Mr. Monroe's 8 years	104,463,400	59
Average for each year	13,057,925	07
Mr. J. Q. Adams's 4 years	50,501,914	31
Average for each year	12,625,478	58
Gen. Jackson's 8 years	145,792,725	00
Average for each year	18,224,091	88
Mr. Van Buren's 3 years	111,406,953	00
Average for each year	37,135,654	33

*Average Expense to each individual,
under the several administrations:—*

	<i>Average popu- lation.</i>	<i>Average tax on each person per year.</i>
In Gen. Washington's 8 years	1,205,045	47
In Mr. Adams's 4 years	5,029,899	\$1 06
In Mr. Jefferson's 8 years	6,099,227	1 06
In Mr. Madison's 8 years	7,759,076	2 32
In Mr. Monroe's 8 years	9,628,131	1 36
In Mr. J. Q. Adams's 4 y'rs.	11,569,093	1 99
In Gen. Jackson's 8 years	13,785,125	1 32
In Mr. Van Buren's 3 y'rs	15,757,020	2 36

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